

Remarks

Applicants have filed a request for continuing examination in the above-identified case. In response to a telephonic interview with Examiner Pang at 9 a.m. Pacific Standard time on September 24, 2003, applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 18 to distinguish the applied references of Togai and Imai.

Specifically, with respect to Togai, applicants respectfully submit that the reference fails to show determining a desired vehicle speed deceleration trajectory in response to a release of the accelerator pedal by the driver. Rather, as indicated by the Examiner in Paper No. 14, page 6, Togai assumes a desired vehicle trajectory to be an original trajectory set at a previous time in response to a release of the accelerator pedal. As such, applicants respectfully submit that Togai is inapplicable.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 18 as amended distinguish the Imai reference. For example, applicants can find no disclosure in Imai of using a desired vehicle speed deceleration trajectory as claimed by applicants, where in addition a desired engine output torque changes from positive to negative based on the release of the accelerator pedal by the driver.

Interview Summary

During the above-identified interview, applicants discussed operation of various embodiments described in the specification, and specifically discussed Figure 17B and Figure 19. Further, applicants discussed the proposed amendment to the independent claims to require that the desired vehicle trajectory was a desired vehicle speed deceleration trajectory, and that the method also determined a desired engine output torque that

changes from positive to negative based on the release of the accelerator pedal.

A preliminary agreement was reached in that these claim amendments distinguish over the applied references of Imai and Togai.

As such, applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is courteously solicited.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account No. 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1505. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

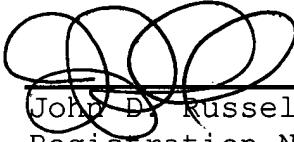
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE III, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on October 8, 2003.

Erin Filsinger

Date of Signature: October 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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